

Serial No. 10/042,833
March 3, 2004
Reply to the Office Action dated November 5, 2003
Page 7 of 11

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 6-19 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Applicant AMENDS the Drawings and claims 10 and 16.

Applicant affirms election of Species 1A, including claims 6-19. Further, Applicant reserves the right to file a Divisional Application to pursue Species 1B-1D.

The Drawings were objected to for failing to designate Figs. 5 and 6 as --Prior Art--. Applicant has amended Figs. 5 and 6 to properly be designated as --Prior Art--. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the Drawings.

The Examiner objected to claim 10 for allegedly containing minor informalities. Applicant has amended claim 10 to correct the minor informalities noted by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to claim 10.

Claims 6, 10, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Lonka (US 5,365,410). Claims 6, 7, 9-11, and 13-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lonka. Claims 8 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lonka in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections of claims 6-19.

Claim 6 recites:

"A method of removing an electromagnetic shielding case from a circuit substrate, said shielding case comprising a cover section for covering electronic components mounted on said circuit substrate; a plurality of leg sections for attaching said cover section to said circuit substrate, each of said leg sections protruding from said cover section toward said substrate and being inserted in through-holes provided in said substrate; and a plurality of tool-insertion openings provided in said cover section, said tool-insertion openings corresponding to respective ones of said leg sections;
said method comprising the steps of:
for each of said leg sections, inserting a cutting tool into a

Serial No. 10/042,833
March 3, 2004
Reply to the Office Action dated November 5, 2003
Page 8 of 11

corresponding said tool-insertion opening, and cutting the corresponding leg section away from said cover section with said cutting tool; and

after all of leg sections have been cut away, removing the cover section.” (emphasis added)

Applicant's claim 6 recites the features of “a plurality of leg sections for attaching said cover section to said circuit substrate, each of said leg sections protruding from said cover section toward said substrate and being inserted in through-holes provided in said substrate” and “for each of said leg sections, inserting a cutting tool into a corresponding said tool-insertion opening, and cutting the corresponding leg section away from said cover section with said cutting tool.” Applicant's claims 10 and 16 recite features which are similar to features recited in Applicant's claim 6, including the above emphasized features. With the improved features of claims 6, 10 and 16, Applicant has been able to provide a shielding case that can be easily removed from a circuit substrate without causing damage to electronic components in the shielding case and peripheral components and circuits thereof (see, for example, the second full paragraph on page 4 of the originally filed Specification).

First, the Examiner has alleged in paragraph no. 5 on page 3 of the outstanding Office Action that elements 7 and 11 of Lonka teach the feature of the plurality of leg sections recited in Applicant's claim 6, 10, and 16. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The Examiner has alleged in the paragraph bridging pages 3 and 4 of the outstanding Office Action that the preamble has not been given any patentable weight because the preamble only recites intended use of a structure and “the process steps are able to stand alone.” However, this is clearly in correct. For example, the body of claim 1 recites “the corresponding leg sections.” That is, the body of claim 6 relies upon the preamble to provide antecedent basis for the feature “the ... leg sections.” Each of the bodies of claims 10 and 16 rely upon their preambles in a similar manner as the body of claim 6 relies upon its preamble. Thus, contrary to the Examiner's allegation, the preambles of claims 6, 10, and 16 should be given patentable weight

Serial No. 10/042,833

March 3, 2004

Reply to the Office Action dated November 5, 2003

Page 9 of 11

because they provide antecedent basis for features recited in the bodies of claims 6, 10, and 16.

Lonka teaches that elements 7 and 11 are necks that are used to attach the cover 16 and the side walls 15, NOT leg sections that are used to attach the cover section and the circuit substrate as recited in Applicant's claims 6, 10, and 16.

Further, elements 7 and 11 of Lonka clearly fail to protrude from the cover section or to be inserted in through holes provided in a substrate as recited in Applicant's claims 6, 10, and 16. Thus, contrary to the Examiner's allegation, elements 7 and 11 of Lonka clearly fail to teach or suggest the feature of "a plurality of leg sections for attaching said cover section to said circuit substrate, each of said leg sections protruding from said cover section toward said substrate and being inserted in through-holes provided in said substrate" as recited in Applicant's claims 6, 10, and 16.

Second, the teeth 5 of Lonka clearly most closely correspond to the feature of the plurality of leg sections recited in Applicant's claim 6, 10, and 16. However, the teeth 5 of Lonka are not cut. As discussed above, the necks 7 and 11 of Lonka are cut. Thus, contrary to the Examiner's allegations, Lonka fails to teach or suggest the feature of "for each of said leg sections, inserting a cutting tool into a corresponding said tool-insertion opening, and cutting the corresponding leg section away from said cover section with said cutting tool" (emphasis added) as recited in Applicant's claim 6, 10, and 16.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 6, 10, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Lonka.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that none of the prior art of record, applied alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the unique combination and arrangement of elements recited in claims 6, 10, and 16 of the present application. Claims 7-9 depend upon claim 6 and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons that claim 6 is allowable. Claims 11-15 depend upon claim 10 and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons that claim 10 is allowable. Claims 17-19 depend upon

Serial No. 10/042,833
March 3, 2004
Reply to the Office Action dated November 5, 2003
Page 10 of 11

claim 16 and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons that claim 16 is allowable.

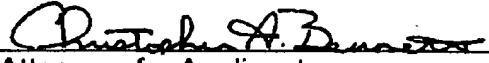
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are solicited.

To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions the Commissioner for a ONE-month extension of time, extending to March 5, 2004, the period for response to the Office Action dated November 5, 2003.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1353.

Respectfully submitted,

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